



MDCR/MCRC E-newsletter for April 6, 2011

College sued for civil rights violations

From the Detroit Free Press, 4/6/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110406/NEWS05/104060371/1001/news/College-sued-civil-rights-violations>

A former Jackson Community College student sued the school in federal court in Detroit on Tuesday, saying his civil rights were violated when he was arrested, forced to undergo a psychiatric evaluation and banned because he complained about a noose being left on his desk.

Group says Detroit Public School officials hindering assault probe

From the Detroit News, 4/5/11

<http://detnews.com/article/20110405/METRO/104050434/1026/local/Group-says-Detroit-Public-School-officials-hindering-assault-probe>

The Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service is suing Detroit Public Schools, claiming the district hindered the nonprofit's investigation of a special education student's alleged sexual assault last year.

IN COMMAND: 3 of state's 15 female police chiefs play major roles in mid-Michigan

From the Lansing State Journal, 4/5/11

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20110405/NEWS01/104050323/IN-COMMAND-3-state-s-15-female-police-chiefs-play-major-roles-mid-Michigan?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

When Kay Hoffman was named Lansing Township's police chief in 1999, she was one of only half a dozen women in Michigan who headed police agencies.

Mid-Michigan Muslim, Christian Arab-Americans speak out against Quran burning

From WJRT (Channel 12), Flint, 4/3/11

<http://abclocal.go.com/wjrt/story?section=news/local&id=8050881>

MID-MICHIGAN (WJRT) -- (04/03/11) -- Florida Preacher Terry Jones is accused of provoking deadly attacks and protests in Afghanistan after burning the Quran in front of a small crowd late last month.

Judge rules in favor of Bad Axe car dealer in age discrimination suit

From the Bay City Times/MLive, 4/3/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/bay-city/index.ssf/2011/04/judge_rules_in_favor_of_bad_ax.html

BAY CITY — A federal judge in Bay City has ruled in favor of a Bad Axe auto dealer named in a wrongful discharge suit.

Federal judge says SMART must accept 'Leaving Islam?' bus ads

From MLive, 4/2/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2011/04/federal_judge_says_smart_must.html

U.S. District Judge Denise Hood issued a preliminary ruling against SMART's decision to reject advertisements from an anti-Islamic group.

Discrimination rampant in transgender life

From PrideSource/Between the Lines, 3/31/11

<http://www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=46245>

When Mara Keisling, the director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, once told a doctor she was transgender, she got a terrified reply...

Stronger human trafficking law coming to Michigan

From the Associated Press, 3/30/11

http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2011/03/stronger_human_trafficking_law.html

A strengthened human trafficking law takes effect on Friday in Michigan, where experts say the form of modern-day slavery occurs more often than most people realize.

Fired U-Toledo administrator hired in Michigan

From the Detroit Free Press, 3/30/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110330/NEWS06/110330005/Fired-U-Toledo-administrator-hired-Michigan?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p>

JACKSON — A University of Toledo administrator who was fired in 2008 over her criticism of gay rights has been hired to lead a human resources department in Michigan.

Supreme Court to decide Redford case: Is teacher at church school a religious or secular worker?

From the Associated Press, 3/28/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2011/03/supreme_court_to_decide_redfor.html

The Supreme Court will decide whether a teacher at a church-run school is a religious or secular worker when it comes to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

State help for deaf is casualty of fund cuts

From the Detroit News, 3/28/11

<http://detnews.com/article/20110328/METRO/103280324/1408/local>

Redford Township — Born with congenital aphasia, Patti Scott's hearing is impaired, her speech garbled. Unable to communicate with much of the world, she lived in frustrated, angry silence.

Arab newcomers help Dearborn buck trend of population loss in metro Detroit

From the AP, 3/27/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2011/03/arab_newcomers_help_dearborn_b.html

The city of Dearborn is nationally known as the home of Ford Motor Co., the Henry Ford museum and one of the country's most concentrated Middle Eastern communities. Now it can boast of bucking a trend that saw Detroit and most other surrounding communities lose population.

Planned Parenthood supporters rally in Ann Arbor to keep organization's federal funding

From AnnArbor.com/Mlive, 3/26/11

<http://www.annarbor.com/news/planned-parenthood-supporters-rally-in-ann-arbor-to-keep-organizations-federal-funding/>

Wearing pink shirts and waving pink signs, hundreds of Planned Parenthood supporters rallied on the University of Michigan Diag today to show their support for continued federal funding for the family-planning organization.

CAIR says Muslim Americans harassed when crossing border

From the Detroit News, 3/24/11

<http://detnews.com/article/20110324/METRO/103240430/CAIR-says-Muslim-Americans-harassed-when-crossing-border>

Southfield — The Michigan Chapter of the Council on American Islamic Relations says it has received dozens of complaints from local Arab-American and Muslim men and women about being targeted for harassment by border control guards on the U.S. side of border crossings from Port Huron to the Ambassador Bridge.

Archaic law uses race to profile voters

From the Detroit News, 3/24/11

<http://detnews.com/article/20110324/OPINION03/103240332/1008/Archaic-law-uses-race-to-profile-voters>

Detroit lost 237,500 residents over the past decade, while Oakland County gained 9,500. Yet Oakland will likely lose one of its two congressmen, while Detroit keeps its two.

All Saints students stand up against bullying with 'Pink Day'

From the Bay City Times/MLive, 3/22/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/bay-city/index.ssf/2011/03/all_saints_students_stand_up_a.html

BAY CITY — Zack Markle knows the repercussions and ill affects of bullying all too well.

Sign language program at LCC faces several hurdles

From the Lansing State Journal, 3/21/11

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20110321/NEWS06/103210323/Sign-language-program-LCC-faces-several-hurdles?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

The plan never was to get rid of Lansing Community College's sign language interpreter program.

Conference highlights Latina achievements

From the State News (MSU), 3/21/11

http://www.statenews.com/index.php/article/2011/03/conference_highlights_latina_achievement_s

Many gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of Latina women across the Midwest during the 18th annual Día de la Mujer Conference on Saturday at Kellogg Center...

We need to speak up for bullied teachers, too

From PrideSource/Between the Lines, 3/17/11

<http://www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=46024>

There's been a lot of attention given to bullying lately, especially the bullying of LGBT students. That, of course, is fantastic news. Right now, groups across the country are figuring out ways to address bullying on all levels. They're changing administrative policies, creating teacher and

student trainings, increasing safe spaces for students and doing all sorts of other wonderful things.

Consequences of criminal behavior on employment can last a lifetime

From Jackson County Legal News, 3/17/11

<http://www.legalnews.com/jackson/897378/>

Mistakes made, of a criminal nature, can follow you the rest of your life as you seek a job, a profession, education.

Council on American-Islamic Relations criticizes University of Michigan's trespass policy

From Ann Arbor.com/MLive, 3/16/11

<http://www.annarbor.com/news/crime/council-on-american-islamic-relations-criticizes-university-of-michigans-trespass-policy/>

The Michigan chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations is joining the American Civil Liberties Union in its criticism of University of Michigan's trespass policy that allows the school to ban juveniles and adults from campus property for life without charging them with a crime.

"Young Women, Strong Leaders" conference coming to West Michigan

From the Holland Sentinel, 3/16/11

<http://www.hollandsentinel.com/news/x13280334/-Young-Women-Strong-Leaders-conference-coming-to-West-Michigan>

Two higher education institutions will host daylong conferences in March and April geared toward providing female students with mentoring opportunities and tools to become successful in the workforce.

Fired Kalamazoo Public Safety Detective Matthew Schultz files lawsuit alleging discrimination, violation of federal disabilities law

From the Kalamazoo Gazette, 3/16/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2011/03/fired_kalamazoo_public_safety.html

KALAMAZOO — A former Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety detective with obsessive-compulsive disorder has filed a federal lawsuit alleging that he was treated differently and ultimately terminated by his supervisors because of his disability.

Holland landlords smacked with fine for discriminating against unwed couples, families with kids

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 3/16/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/03/holland_landlords_smacked_with.html

HOLLAND — When fair-housing decoys pretending to be an unmarried couple approached a Holland landlord two years ago, they were turned away with an admonishment.

3 South Haven police officers file lawsuit claiming former chief sexually harassed them

From the Kalamazoo Gazette/MLive, 3/16/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2011/03/3_south_haven_police_officers.html

SOUTH HAVEN — Three female officers from the South Haven Police Department have filed a federal lawsuit alleging that their former chief subjected them to sexual discrimination and harassment and that city leaders did nothing to stop the behavior.

Holland landlords admit to housing discrimination

From WGVU, 3/15/11

<http://www.wgvu.org/wgvunews/index.cfm?id=sdetail&sty=10991>

The Holland landlords owned 14 condominiums and two apartments. The couple told investigators it was their right to turn away whomever they pleased. The condos and apartments were theirs. They got away with it for 30 years until finally they turned away the wrong person, a young woman who would later intern for the Fair Housing Center of West Michigan.

Update: Ethnic intimidation charge dropped in case against Bangor Township man

From the Bay City Times/MLive, 3/15/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/bay-city/index.ssf/2011/03/update_ethnic_intimidation_cha.html

BAY CITY — Prosecutors will not pursue an ethnic intimidation charge against a 53-year-old Bangor Township man accused of shouting racial slurs at a teen.

Bangor Township man shouted racial slurs at teen, prosecutors say

From the Bay City Times/MLive, 3/14/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/bay-city/index.ssf/2011/03/bangor_township_man_shouted_ra.html

BAY CITY — Prosecutors are pursuing an ethnic intimidation charge against a 53-year-old Bangor Township man accused of shouting racial slurs at a teen.

Clinton Township police chief to address ACLU claim

From the Detroit News, 3/14/11

<http://detnews.com/article/20110314/METRO03/103140319/1409/Clinton-Township-police-chief-to-address-ACLU-claim>

Clinton Township— Police Chief Fred Posavetz said he's drafting a letter to address accusations that his department won't allow attorneys to confer with clients being interrogated at the police station.

Attorney General Bill Schuette files brief against grad student's dismissal for refusing to counsel gay clients

From the Associated Press/MLive, 3/14/11

http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2011/03/attorney_general_bill_schuette.html

Michigan's attorney general says a graduate student's dismissal from a counseling program for telling clients to avoid homosexual behavior may have violated her constitutional rights.

Census: Hispanics poised to become 'majority minority'

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 3/13/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2011/03/chart_growth_of_hispanic_popul.html

GRAND RAPIDS -- Standing outside La Tapatia Supermarket, Leonarda Rodriguez squints into the sun and ponders the question.

Judge rules in favor of Bay County police, prosecutors named in civil rights suit filed by Jordanian-American man

From the Bay City Times/MLive, 3/10/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/bay-city/index.ssf/2011/03/judge_rules_in_favor_of_bay_co.html

BAY CITY — A judge has thrown out a part of a federal civil suit filed by a Jordanian-American man who claims he was wrongfully imprisoned and maliciously prosecuted in 2008 in Bay County.

Gratiot County man accused of ethnic intimidation of black male, trying to harm trio with knife

From the Saginaw News/Mlive, 3/10/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/saginaw/index.ssf/2011/03/knife-wielding_gratiot_county.html

NORTH STAR TWP. — Gratiot County prosecutors have charged a 42-year-old man with ethnic intimidation after police allege he yelled racial slurs at a black male visiting his neighbor's home here and then tried to harm the victim with a knife.

Thornapple Kellogg schools have more non-English speakers, look for more ESL funding

From the Grand Rapids Press/Mlive, 3/10/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/03/thornapple_kellogg_schools_hav.html

MIDDLEVILLE — When Martin Curiel first started school at Thornapple Kellogg, there was a language barrier for the Spanish-speaking youngster.